Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* At that time there was a sudden glut of jaggery in the Madras Province. They wanted to dispose of those stocks quickly and so they entered into this arrangement.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Industries and Commerce):* May I know which all merchants get jaggery into State?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Was there not sufficient stock with the Cochin Government when these merchants brought down jaggery from Madras?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Just for a month, that is all.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Was there any reduction in the price of jaggery soon after the merchants brought it?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The official rate of jaggery always depends upon the price at which we are getting it from the Madras Government. There was a reduction subsequently.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Is it a fact that the jaggery was taken from the merchants at the reduced rate?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The merchants were paid the price fixed by the Madras Government. That price together with the charges incurred by them was paid to the merchants.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* How long after the jaggery was got down, was it taken from the merchants?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The exact date I don't remember. It was sometime after.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Was not considerable damage caused due to the delay?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was inevitable. The merchants purchased it without consulting the Government and so they took the risk.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When there was a glut in the Madras Market was our quota affected by the sale by the Madras Government direct to the merchants.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes. These sales were not of our State quota.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Was it being deducted from our quota?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Is any instruction given to the merchants not to purchase jaggery without consulting the Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplis):* There is a notification prohibiting the import without Government's sanction from outside the State.

TAPIOCA CULTIVATION

83. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have taken note of the large tracts of tapioca cultivation remaining unlifted and even now out-living the season;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will they please state what they will direct these crops to be done within the interests of both the cultivator and the consumer;

(*c*) is the product liable to deterioration and destruction if allowed to remain unlifted after the full seasonal growth?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Government are aware of the fact that large tracts of tapioca cultivation remain unlifted.

(*b*) Government do not think it necessary to give any direction to the cultivator or the consumer.

(*c*) Yes.

STRAW—STOCKS OF

84. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether since the Budget Session any return for the stocks of straw have been made to them by all or any of the cultivators of kole lands in the Trichur Taluk;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative who have done so with the quantity shown by each;

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